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Committee (Con. d) ER-8-1155

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Date:

Memorandum for the Record

4 April 1956

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Subject: Proposed Congressional Visit

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1. On March 24 the Director signed letters to the Chairmen of the Armed Services and Appropriations Committees of the House and the Senate, inviting the CIA subcommittee members and a staff representative to visit [redacted] on the 26th and 27th of April. I was instructed, however, to check with Chairmen Vinson and Russell before actually dispatching the letters, in order to ascertain their general views on whether the trip would be worthwhile.

2. Senator Russell was contacted on March 27, and indicated that he thought a trip of this nature would be useful, adding however that he would probably find it difficult to attend personally. Chairman Vinson had left for his home in Georgia the previous week, and I was unable to contact him. The Chief Counsel of that Committee, however, advised me that he was certain Chairman Vinson would favor the idea of such a trip and that we would probably be well advised to send the letters forward after a check with Speaker Rayburn as to whether he would object to as many as twelve members of the House being absent on two normal working days. Speaker Rayburn had apparently been greatly annoyed by a recent Congressional junket aboard the USS Forrestal which had been laid on without any reference to him. After checking with the Director, General Cabell contacted Speaker Rayburn on March 30. The Speaker did not object to the trip, but requested that we arrange to have it on April 27 and 28, Friday and Saturday, instead of the dates previously planned. If this could be done, the Speaker would have no objection.

3. After a check with the Office of Training and the DD/S, the dates were changed to April 27 and 28, and I delivered the invitation letters to Senator Hayden and Mr. Smart for Chairman Vinson. I had previously left his letter with Senator Russell, in order that he might read it prior to his departure on the 28th of March.

4. I have not delivered the letter to Chairman Cannon. He left Washington for his home a week prior to adjournment, and will not return to Washington until April 9 or 10. In view of his acute sensitivity to the security problem, and in further view of the fact that there is no one member

of his own staff or of the Committee staff who has traditionally been cleared by the Chairman for unlimited access to CIA information, I concluded that it would be unwise for me to attempt to deliver the letter prior to Mr. Cannon's return.

Norman S. Paul
Legislative Counsel

IG:SP/blc

Orig. - DCI 25X1A9A

1 - DDCI

1 - DD/S¹

1 - Dir. of Training

1 - IG

1 - SA/DCI

2-Signer

~~SECRET~~